

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, 18-23, and 26-30 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, and 26 are amended, and Claims 2, 9, 10, 17, 24, 25, and 31-58 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is introduced.<sup>1</sup>

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1, 9, 10, 16, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ebashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,133).

The Office Action also indicated that Claims 2-8, 11-15, 17-23, and 26-30 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

In response to the indication of allowable subject matter, independent Claim 1 is amended to include the features previously set forth in dependent Claim 2, and dependent Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; Claims 8 and 11 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim 1; independent Claim 16 is amended to include the features previously set forth in dependent Claim 17, and dependent Claim 17 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 23 and 26 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim 16. In addition Claims 3, 4, 6, 18, 19, and 21 are amended to address their dependency. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1, 8, 11, 16, 23, and 26, and the claims depending therefrom, are presently allowable as acknowledged in the Office Action.

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<sup>1</sup> Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the claims as previously filed.

In addition, Claims 31-58, directed to non-elected inventions, are canceled.

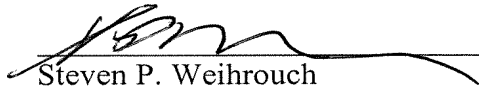
Applicants reserve the right to present claims directed to the non-elected inventions in a divisional application, which shall be subject to the third sentence of 35 U.S.C. § 121.<sup>2</sup>

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, 18-23, and 26-30 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>2</sup> "A patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction under this section has been made ... shall not be used as a reference ... against a divisional application." See also MPEP § 804.01.